thresholding the features to produce a thresholded binary image;

discarding features of the thresholded binary image having a size less than a

predetermined size; and

stroking the image with a series of brush strokes emanating from remaining

features[those areas] having high spatial variance.

5. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of locating comprises applying a Sobel

filter to the image to produce a greyscale image indicating a per-pixel edge-strength of the

image.

6. (New) The method of claim 5 wherein the step of thresholding comprises discarding

located features having an edge-strength of less than a predetermined proportion of a

maximum edge strength.

7. (New) The method of claim 1 wherein the step of discarding comprises discarding located

features having a size of less than 20 pixels.

REMARKS

The applicant has also taken the opportunity to re-cast the specification into a more
appropriate format. A substitute specification is attached. Also, a marked up copy of the
amended pages of the substitute specification showing the amendment, is attached. At the
same time US patent application numbers of the co-pending, cross-referenced application
have been added. These numbers were not available at the time of filing the present
application as the co-pending applications were filed contemporaneously with the present